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CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE
AND NATURAL HABITATS

Standing Committee

31st meeting
Strasbourg, 29 November – 2 December 2011

**Implementation of Recommendation No. 119 (2006)
on the conservation of certain endangered species of
amphibians and reptiles in Europe**

REPORT BY THE GOVERNMENTS

*Document prepared by
the Directorate of Democratic Governance, Culture and Diversity*

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CROATIA / CROATIE

Follow-up of Recommendation No. 119 (2006) of the Standing Committee on the conservation of certain endangered species of amphibians and reptiles in Europe

Prepared by the State Institute for Nature Protection and the Ministry of Culture, Nature Protection Directorate, October 2011

The activities in regards to the Recommendation No. 119 (2006) on the conservation of five endangered species of amphibians and reptiles in Croatia are as follows:

All species covered by the Recommendation and occurring in Croatia: *Lacerta agilis*, *Vipera ursinii macrops*, *Zamenis longissimus*, *Rana latastei*, *Triturus carnifex* and *Triturus dobrogicus*, are strictly protected by the Nature Protection Act.

In the Red Book of Amphibians and Reptiles of Croatia (Hutinec et al., 2006) *Vipera ursinii macrops* is listed as Endangered (EN), *Rana latastei* as Vulnerable (VU), *Triturus dobrogicus* as Near Threatened (NT). *Lacerta agilis*, *Zamenis longissimus* and *Triturus carnifex* are not listed.

Vipera ursinii

National action plan with the management plan is currently being developed for *Vipera ursinii*. The process started in 2010 and the international expert group was formed to supervise the drafting of the action plan. Members of the expert group are Dušan Jelić from the State Institute for Nature Protection in Croatia, Balint Halpern from Hungary, Ljiljana Tomović (PhD), Rastko Ajtić (MSc) and Jelka Crnobrnja-Isajlović (PhD) from Serbia. Document is in the final stage of preparation and should be finished by the beginning of 2012. From 2006 until 2011 thorough research of taxonomy, population ecology and genetics was conducted. It was financed in small portion by the State Institute for Nature Protection, but mostly by the international financing granted to the Croatian Society for

Picture 1. Distribution of *Z. longissimus*
(Jelić et al., 2009)

Picture 2. Distribution of *L. agilis*
(Jelić et al., 2009)

Biological Research – HBDI and Croatian Herpetological Society – HYL A.

Rana latastei

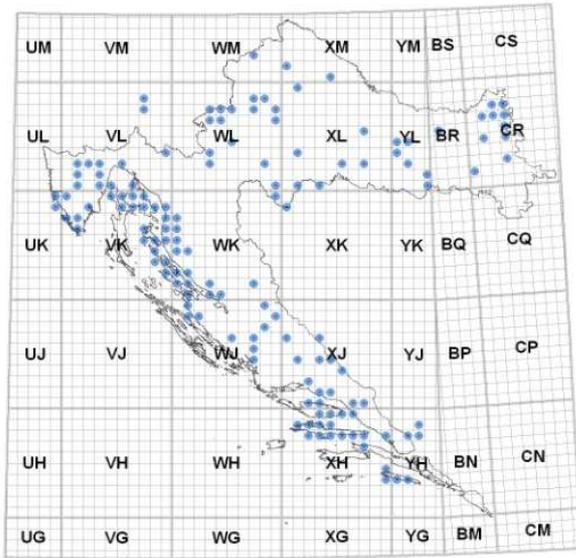
Drafting of the national action plan for *Rana latastei* is planned for 2012 and should be finished by the beginning of 2013. Detailed research financed by the State Institute for Nature Protection has been conducted by the Croatian Herpetological Society – HYL A in the period 2005 – 2009 to determine causes of threat to this species. Project results defined the conservation activities which will be implemented through the national action plan.

Triturus carnifex* and *Triturus dobrogicus

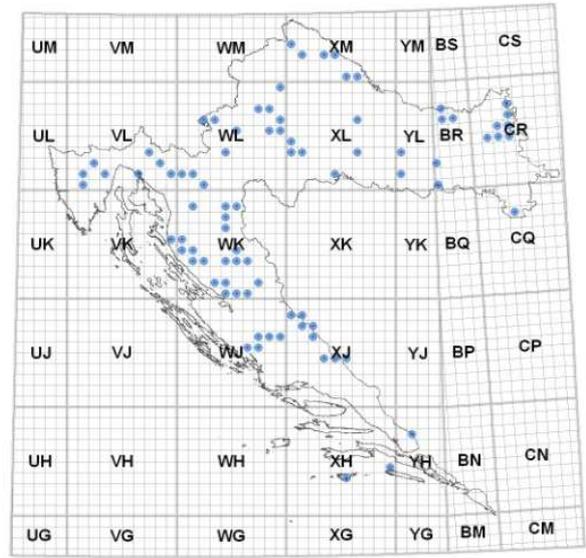
Both species were researched in 2009 in the scope of defining the NATURA 2000 proposal. Research was financed by the State Institute for Nature Protection and conducted by the Croatian Natural History Museum. The distribution of the species was confirmed and the sites for NATURA 2000 proposal were defined. Detailed population research and establishment of monitoring program are necessary for these species, so they are both recommended as a priority for the future research (Jelić et al., 2009).

Zamenis longissimus* and *Lacerta agilis

Zamenis longissimus and *Lacerta agilis* are species which are abundant in the southern part of the areal, to which Croatia belongs. Both species are present on the most part of the land territory of Croatia (excluding the islands). Gaps in the distribution data (Picture 1 and 2) are the consequence of the insufficient mapping (Jelić et al., 2009). Both species are numerous and widespread, and no specific conservation actions, besides monitoring on national level, are planned in the near future.



Picture 1. Distribution of *Z. longissimus*
(Jelić et al., 2009)



Picture 2. Distribution of *L. agilis*
(Jelić et al., 2009)

References:

- Janev Hutinec, B., Kletečki, E., Lazar, B., Podnar Lešić, M., Skejić, J., Tadić, Z., Tvrković, N. (2006): Red Book of Amphibians and Reptiles of Croatia. Ministry of Culture & State Institute for Nature Protection, Republic of Croatia.
- Jelić, D., Kuljerić, M., Janev-Hutinec, B., Mekinić, S., Treer, D., Basta, J., Koren, T., Burić, I. (2009): Distribution and species richness of Croatian herpetofauna with remarks on conservation status. Book of Abstracts from 15th European Congress of Herpetology, Kusadasi.

CZECH REPUBLIC / REPUBLIQUE TCHEQUE

THE PROGRESS REPORT OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATION NO. 119 (2006) ON THE CONSERVATION OF CERTAIN ENDANGERED SPECIES OF AMPHIBIANS AND REPTILES IN EUROPE

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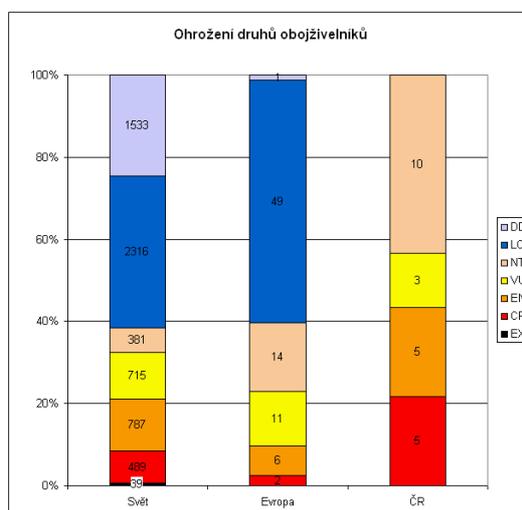
Conservation status of species of amphibians

The occurrence of 21 species of amphibians is confirmed in the Czech Republic. Nearly all species are threatened; 20 species are listed in the Decree No.395/1992 Coll. and therefore legally protected. Most of the species are also redlisted and listed in the Annex of the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC).

The red list status of amphibians (Czech, Europe and Worldwide) is presented in fig. 1.

The Red list of the Czech Republic of amphibians assess more than 50% of amphibian species as endangered (in categories CR, EN, VU). The main reason for the differences in assessment at the European list and the Czech list is the fact that a high number of species occurs in the Czech Republic on the edge of its range (*Triturus dobrogicus*, *T. helveticus*, *T. carnifex*, *T. montandoni*) and is represented only by one or a few populations. Although there is no comprehensive quantitative information about long-term changes in the populations of amphibians, the overall trends are more or less known on the basis of regional observations.

Figure 1: Classification of amphibians in the categories of the European Red List (EU27) and the Red List of Czech Republic. Source: IUCN, ANCLP



The Reporting under the Article 17 of the Habitats Directive (2007) evaluated the conservation status of amphibians. Most of the species were assessed as unfavourable inadequate. This situation is mainly due to the poor state of the habitats and adverse developments in the population, caused by anthropogenic factors. These factors can be direct, such as mass killing of individuals (in all developmental stages), but also indirect, which results in a reduction in the population dynamics and stability. The indirect effects often have a large scale character (changes in the ways of land use, habitat destruction and fragmentation, pond management, maintenance of water courses, introduction of alien species).

The conception of conservation of amphibians in the CR had been written on the basis of the known information. The conception analyses the current situation and proposes concrete priority actions needed to protect amphibian species. The priority species were also selected in the conception of conservation

Agency of Nature Conservation and Landscape Protection of the Czech Republic (ANCLP) surveys the status of the species in two basic ways: by monitoring and mapping. The monitoring system is based on the continuous monitoring of stable localities and comprises all species in Annex II, IV and V of the Habitats Directive. The mapping covers the entire territory of the Czech republic for the same group of species as monitoring.

In addition to the surveillance system, there are also realized local studies (eg: Genetic and population study and threat risk analysis of *Triturus cristatus* group in the district of Znojmo and Trebic (Macat 2010).

***Triturus cristatus* group**

The Large Newts species complex is in the CR represented by a Large Newt (*Triturus cristatus* superspecies). Until 1993, all populations were identified as species *Triturus cristatus*, respectively, to the subspecies *T. cristatus cristatus*. In 1993 in Ranšpurk were discovered three specimens that appear to be morphologically and biochemically *T. dobrogicus* (Zavadil et al. 1994, Zavadil 1995, Zavadil & Piálek 1997). Species *T. carnifex* was discovered in 1997 in Znojmo (Mašovice quarry), in search of other possible sites of *T. dobrogicus* (Piálek et al. 1998, Piálek et al. 1999, Piálek et al. 2000). However, the Large Newts determination in South Moravia is still a subject of discussions. The laboratory methods identified most of the surveyed individuals as hybrids.

According to the Czech law the *T. cristatus* and *T. carnifex* are legally protected, *T. dobrogicus* was probably omitted by mistake.

Great Crested Newt (*Triturus cristatus*)

In the Czech Republic, outside of South Moravia the Great Crested Newt originally occurred almost everywhere till the altitude of 800 m. The number of its sites is greatly reduced recently and the populations are in many cases isolated. The steep decrease occurred esp. in Central Bohemia. The Great Crested Newt withdrew primarily due to changes in the water regime in the landscape such as: drainage of meadows and woods, regulation of rivers and small streams, transformation of grasslands into the arable land, the use of artificial fertilizers and biocides in agriculture and forestry, intensive use of agricultural land, the liquidation of smaller bodies of water in the landscape. In the recent years factors like overgrowth of surrounding vegetation around waters associated with their shade, introducing of fish stocks into the lakes in quarries and intensive aquaculture in ponds (high fish stock, the reduction of littoral) are growing in importance.

Predatory Newt (*Triturus carnifex*)

In the CR only several localities in the NP Podyjí and the district Znojmo and Trebic host the species. It was found in the CR first time in 1997, nevertheless the species has already withdrawn from some sites, or reduced its abundance since its discovery. Hybrids with the Predatory Newts were found in South Bohemia, therefore the current or former occurrence cannot be excluded.

The former area of the occurrence was probably much larger. The recent number of sites in South Moravia is now considerably reduced. Most sites of the Predatory Newt are annually monitored. Its occurrence is mostly recorded only occasionally and in low numbers. In 2011 the new successful method of bait trapping has been introduced. Reasons for the decline of the species are the same as for the Large Newt.

Danube Crested Newt (*Triturus dobrogicus*)

Triturus dobrogicus occurs in the southernmost Moravia (the confluence of the rivers Morava and Thaya, Bzenecká doubrava forest and southern surroundings of Brno). The recent occurrence is a fraction of the historical range.

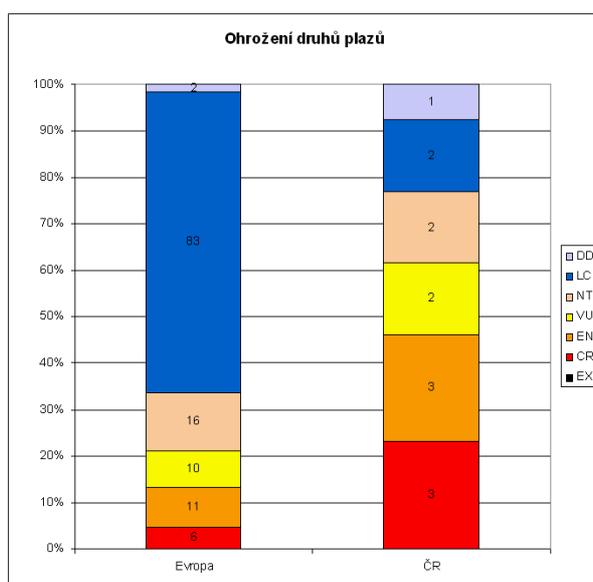
The many possible former localities were destroyed by human activities (farming, inadequate water treatment) or natural events. The species is now found only in a few isolated locations. Its abundance is very low and can be considered as rare. In the recent years some sites were negatively affected by the artificial flooding around Břeclav and Lanžhot, which were carried out regardless of the life cycle of newts. Most sites of the Danube Crested Newt are monitored annually. Its occurrence is recorded only occasionally and in low numbers. Reasons for the decline of the populations are the same as for the Large Newt.

The measures taken -at the localities with the implemented management plans - mainly creation and restoration of the ponds (budget of the local authorities, national subsidies).

Conservation status of species of reptiles

In the Czech Republic occurs 11 species of reptiles. All reptiles are legally protected. Most species are also redlisted and listed in the annexes of the Habitats Directive. Fig. 2 compares the Red List at the European level and at the level of the Czech Republic. Red list of reptiles of the Czech Republic assessed more than 60% of reptile species in one of the category of threatened species (CR, EN, VU). The main reason for the differences in the assessment at the European and Czech level is the fact that a high number of species in the CR occurs at the edge of its range (*Zamenis longissimus*, *Natrix tessellata*, *Podarcis muralis*) and is represented by only one or a few populations in the CR. Although there is no comprehensive quantitative information about long-term changes in the populations of the reptiles, the overall trends are more or less known on the basis of regional observations.

Figure 2: Classification of the reptiles into the categories of the European Red List (EU27) and the Red List of Czech Republic. Source: IUCN, ANCLP



The Reporting under the Article 17 of the Habitats Directive (2007) evaluated the conservation status of reptiles, most of the species were assessed as unfavourable inadequate. This situation is mainly due to the poor state of habitats and adverse developments in population, caused by anthropogenic factors. These can be direct, such as mass killing of individuals (in all developmental stages), but also indirect, which result in a reduction in population dynamics and stability. The indirect effects often have a large scale character (changes in the ways of land use, habitat destruction and fragmentation, pond management, maintenance of water courses, introduction of alien species).

ANCLP surveys the status of the species in two basic ways: by monitoring and mapping. The monitoring system is based on the continuous monitoring of stable localities covers all species in Annex II, IV and V of the Habitats Directive. The mapping covers the entire territory of the Czech republic.

Regarding the concerned species *Zamenis longissimus* a National Action Plan was drawn up. Cooperation with Polis conservationist has been started this year. More information will be given in

the separate progress report on the implementation of the Recommendation No. 106 (2003) on the conservation of the Aesculapian snake.

The measures taken - at the localities with the occurrence (especially snakes and green lizard) with the implemented management plans - mainly cutting raid (budget of the local authorities, national subsidies).

ESTONIA / ESTONIE**Follow-up of Recommendation No. 119 (2006) of the Standing Committee on the conservation of certain endangered species of amphibians and reptiles in Europe, adopted by the Standing Committee on 30 November 2006****COUNTRY REPORT OF ESTONIA**Authority concerned:

Ministry of the Environment

Nature Conservation Department

Narva mnt 7a

Tallinn / Estonia

Estonia has two of the eight species mentioned in the recommendation no 119: the Great Crested Newt (*Triturus cristatus*) and the Sand Lizard (*Lacerta agilis*). Both species are in second protection category which includes specimen protection and also forming species protection sites where needed.

Great Crested Newt

The Great Crested Newt is in Estonia in its' distributions' northern range. The main area of distribution is in hillocks of South-East of Estonia and also one locality in Pandivere upland more to the north.

The species is very selective of its' habitat and is present only in mosaic landscapes with good quality water bodies, and good foraging and hibernation sites. As the species has poor migratory ability the good quality terrestrial and aquatic components should be within 50 m of each other. More info on the habitat requirements of great crested newt in the Estonia and also Denmark and Lithuania can be seen in "Protection of the Great Crested Newt Best Practice guidelines" (http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/project/Projects/index.cfm?fuseaction=home.showFile&rep=file&fil=BALTRIT_Best_Practices_EN.pdf).

Although the species in Estonia is still quite widely distributed and can be numerous in local scale the the destruction and fragmentation of suitable habitats has has effect on this species and it is in the second protection category on Estonia.

The action plan for the conservation of *T. cristatus* was adopted by the minister of environment for the years of 2007-2012 and is expected to be updated after it expires. Action plan is implemented by the Environmental Board.

The species is present in several protected areas, but in addition ten national species protection sites have been dedicated: five in Põlva county, four in Võru county and one in Lääne-Viru county. The great crested newt species protection sites have strict regulations on the habitat use, for example: the releasing fish to the water bodies is prohibited, in the 50 m zone of east and south margins of waterbody planting trees is prohibited etc (regulation text is available online in Estonian <https://www.riigiteataja.ee/akt/13299713>).

The species is subject to annual monitoring.

One of Estonias' most successful LIFE projects (voted to the list of Best LIFE Nature Projects 2009) was the project „Protecting the Great Crested Newt in the Eastern Baltic“ carried out in 2004-2008, which included international corporation, sharing of knowledge and habitat restoration and management.

The project adjusted the Danish habitat management and restoration techniques to the regional and local conditions found in Finland and Estonia.

The project concentrated on the restoration and protection of a network of suitable habitats, targeting 95-97% of the species' populations in Estonia and Finland. The main action was to ensure there were enough ponds for breeding. As of December 2008, 240 ponds had been created in Estonia and 21 restored in Finland, as well as 12 'demonstration ponds' in different habitat types in Denmark. Before the habitat management and pond reconstruction started *T. cristatus* was present in less than 25% of ponds. No relocation (assisted migration) was carried out, monitoring in spring 2008 showed that 127 (>50%) ponds surveyed in Estonia had been colonised by the newt, and this increasing colonisation trend has continued.

A further aim of the project was to use the experience gained to produce a best practice guidelines

(http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/project/Projects/index.cfm?fuseaction=home.showFile&rep=file&fil=BALTRIT_Best_Practices_EN.pdf) and country or county wide action plans for the great crested newt were created in participating countries.

Dissemination activities facilitated the involvement of experts from Latvia, Lithuania and the Netherlands to further the international scope of the project

Sand Lizard

Sand Lizard has limited distribution in Estonia, mainly being present on open dune areas and sandpits. Although the species is quite rare in country scale, it can be abundant in local scale.

Lacerta agilis doesn't have national action plan in Estonia yet. The action plan is being compiled and is expected to be enforced in 2013.

The species is protected in protected areas and habitat management actions carried out for other species (e.g. *T. cristatus*) in similar habitats also improve the habitat for the sand lizard. Also one national species protection site has been dedicated to the species, restrictions in the site can be seen here in Estonian http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/cultureheritage/nature/bern/default_en.asp.

Species status and distribution in Estonia was rather poorly known, therefore intensive field surveys based on historical data and available suitable habitat were carried out in the summer on 2011.

In sites of historical data or word of mouth knowledge *L. agilis* was found in 43% of locations. Two historic locations were not visited due to remote location or unfavourable weather conditions.

Also 4 new locations were found in suitable habitats.

As Estonia is located relatively far in north the weather conditions and the time of day is extremely important in determining the activity of reptile species - *L. agilis* was seen only in sunny days near noon. The places where the sand lizard was not seen need to be revisited in following years.

As specialised experts in species are lacking in Estonia, Dutch expert Jöran Janse was included in survey to pass on expert knowledge and know-how. The data collected in survey is incorporated to the species action plan to give specialized recommendations for actions in each known location.

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EUROPEAN COMMISSION / COMMISSION EUROPEENNE

FOLLOW-UP OF RECOMMENDATION NO. 119 (2006) ON CONSERVATION OF CERTAIN ENDANGERED SPECIES OF AMPHIBIANS AND REPTILES IN EUROPE

Regarding the conservation of the species, subject to Recommendation 119 (2006) of the Bern Convention Standing Committee, the European Commission has undertaken efforts to ensure conservation if the species mentioned.

1) Policy development and implementation

The Habitats Directive is the main piece of legislation ensuring the protection of Europe's herpetofauna. Annexes II, IV, and V of the Habitats Directive include 53 amphibian and 87 reptile species. The species subject to the Recommendation 119 (2006) are *Rana latastei*, *Triturus cristatus*, *Triturus dobrogicus*, *Triturus carnifex*, *Triturus carelinii*, *Vipera ursinii*,. All of them with the exception of *Z. longissimus* and *L agilis* are listed in Annex II of the Directive i.e. they are species for which designation for Special Areas of Conservation (Natura 2000 sites) is required. Although for *Z. longissimus* and *L agilis* there is no legal requirement for designation of Natura 2000 sites, they are also subject to protection in a number of protected sites.

Site designated for protection of species subject to Recommendation 119 (2006)

Scientific name	Number of designated SCIs
<i>Rana latastei</i>	177
<i>Triturus cristatus</i>	2183
<i>Triturus carnifex</i>	678
<i>Triturus dobrogicus</i>	171
<i>Triturus karelinii</i>	1
<i>Vipera ursinii</i>	50
<i>Vipera ursinii moldavica</i>	1
<i>Vipera ursinii rakosiensis</i>	7
<i>Zamenis longissimus</i>	132
<i>Lacerta agilis</i>	1357
<i>Lacerta agilis agilis</i>	1
<i>Lacerta agilis linnaeus</i>	7

More information is available at: <http://natura2000.eea.europa.eu/#>

Other EU policies that contribute to the conservation of the amphibian and reptile species, including those subjects to Recommendation 119(2006) are:

- Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) - a cornerstone of Community policy to prevent the trade of endangered amphibian and reptile species.
- The Water Framework Directive protects all waters – rivers, lakes, coastal waters, and ground water. The implementation of this Directive along with the Habitats Directive contributes greatly to securing the conditions needed by water-dependent herpetofauna throughout the life-cycle by improving water quality and integrating Natura 2000 sites into river basin management plans.
- The Marine Strategy Framework Directive can have a positive effect on Europe's reptiles and amphibians
- Under the Common Agricultural Policy grassland ecosystems are among the most species-rich habitats in Europe and they support important herpetofauna species. Various EU policy approaches introduced over the past decade can assist farmers in undertaking the necessary actions for conserving grassland herpetofauna (e.g., CAP Pillar III – Agri-Environment measures), for example, management of the traditionally grazed “puszta” that supports the meadow viper.

2) Monitoring

In 2007, Member States (MS) delivered the first comprehensive information on the conservation status of the habitats and species of Community interest in the first round of full reporting according to Article 17 of the Habitats Directive. The results show that more than two-thirds of the amphibians species assessed by the MS by biogeographical region (104) included in the Annexes of the Habitats Directive has an unfavourable conservation status. Furthermore, some 40% of the reptile species assessed presents an unfavourable conservation status, although the MS did not provide enough data to assess the conservation status of 63 of the 149 reptile species.

Also, more recently the IUCN, on behalf of the European Commission, produced European Red Lists to determine the relative risk of extinction of Europe's amphibian and reptile species. This is an important tool to scientifically assess and communicate the status of species. http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/conservation/species/redlist/downloads/European_reptiles.pdf

3) Financing actions on the ground

Since its beginning, the Commission's environment and nature funding programme, LIFE, has been contributing to projects with actions directly targeting reptiles and amphibians, or targeting the habitats in which they are found. The total budget of implemented projects co-financed by LIFE + for conservation of the species subject to the Recommendation 119/2006 is **124 580 148 Euro**. The projects are presented in Annex 1. It should be noted that not all projects are entirely dedicated to a concrete species concerned but often to a group of species or to habitats in which they are found (See: Annex 1).

Annex 1

	Project Title	Project n°	Year of Finance	Lead partner country	Type of Beneficiary	Total budget of the project (€)
Rana latastei	[+] LIFE FRIULI FENS - Conservation and restoration of calcareous fens in Friuli	LIFE06 NAT/IT/000060	2006	IT	Regional authority	2645000
Rana latastei	[+] C.I.SPI.VE.HAB. - Conservation and Improvement of Spina Verde SCI Habitats	LIFE10 NAT/IT/000224	2010	IT	Park-Reserve authority	569538
Rana latastei	[+] Lancenigo - Fontane Bianche sources of Lancenigo Programme.	LIFE96 NAT/IT/003060	1996	IT	Local authority	41787
Rana latastei	[+] Palata Menasciutto - Palata Menasciutto : management and conservation of wet woodlands	LIFE99 NAT/IT/006253	1999	IT	Park-Reserve authority	573267
Rana latastei	[+] Curone/S. Croce - V. Curone - V. S. Croce : protection priority habitats	LIFE98 NAT/IT/005037	1998	IT	Park-Reserve authority	256588
Rana latastei	[+] SiAurora - Aurora System - active presentation of Salamandra atra aurorae and other amphibians	LIFE04 NAT/IT/000167	2004	IT	Local authority	841784
Rana latastei	[+] SORBA - RESTORATION OF BACCHIGLIONE SPRINGS AND HABITAT OF SPA IT3220013 AND SCI IT3220040	LIFE09 NAT/IT/000213	2009	IT	Local authority	1224000
Rana latastei	[+] Lago Ganna - Requalification interventions of SIC Ganna's Lake	LIFE04 NAT/IT/000159	2004	IT	Park-Reserve authority	826500
Rana latastei	[+] Groane - Proposed sites of conservation importance (SCIs - Bioitaly) environment restoration on the Groa ...	LIFE96 NAT/IT/003068	1996	IT	Park-Reserve authority	1175964
TOTAL for Rana latasetei						8154428
Triturus cristatus	[+] Dommeldal - Transboundary habitat restoration in the valley of the Dommel	LIFE05 NAT/B/000091	2005	BE	NGO-Foundation	5818650
Triturus cristatus	[+] Life Averbode - Habitat restoration in Averbode Bos en Heide	LIFE06 NAT/B/000081	2006	BE	NGO-Foundation	3870400
Triturus cristatus	[+] NATURA2MIL - Rehabilitation of habitats in military camps in Wallonia	LIFE05 NAT/B/000088	2005	BE	Regional authority	3447436
Triturus cristatus	[+] ZENO - Zwindunes Ecological Nature Optimisation	LIFE06 NAT/B/000087	2006	BE	Regional authority	2537060

Triturus cristatus	[+] 3 Bossen Vlaamse Ardennen - Action Plan for conservation and restoration of three woods in the Flemish Ardennes	LIFE00 NAT/B/007156	2000	BE	NGO-Foundation	2837738
Triturus cristatus	[+] HELA - Cross-border restoration of heathland on continental dunes	LIFE06 NAT/B/000085	2006	BE	Park-Reserve authority	1896047
Triturus cristatus	[+] TOTAL COVER HELNÆS - Restoring semi-natural habitat types to a total cover of site Helnæs	LIFE08 NAT/DK/000465	2008	DK	National authority	2529934
Triturus cristatus	[+] DRY GRASSLAND - Dry Grassland in Denmark - Restoration and Conservation	LIFE08 NAT/DK/000464	2008	DK	National authority	2162094
Triturus cristatus	[+] REFLOW - Re-establishing a natural water flow level in the river system "Mølleåen"	LIFE07 NAT/DK/000100	2007	DK	National authority	4669642
Triturus cristatus	[+] Soonwald - Development of humid and moist forests in the Soonwald	LIFE08 NAT/D/000012	2008	DE	NGO-Foundation	1751852
Triturus cristatus	[+] Steigerwaldrand Iphofen - Woodlands and river valleys on the Steigerwald slopes near Iphofen	LIFE09 NAT/DE/000005	2009	DE	Regional authority	1631786
Triturus cristatus	[+] Lippe-Aue - Optimisation of the pSCI "Lippe flood plain between Hamm and Hangfort"	LIFE05 NAT/D/000057	2005	DE	Local authority	5514593
Triturus cristatus	[+] LIFE rund ums Heckengäu - Habitat improvement for endangered animals and plants in the NATURA 2000 areas of Stromberg, He ...	LIFE10 NAT/DE/000005	2010	DE	Local authority	1819460
Triturus cristatus	[+] BALTCOAST - Rehabilitation of the Baltic coastal lagoon habitat complex	LIFE05 NAT/D/000152	2005	DE	NGO-Foundation	5685005
Triturus cristatus	[+] BALTRIT - Protection of Triturus cristatus in Eastern Baltic Region	LIFE04 NAT/EE/000070	2004	EE	National authority	736190
Triturus cristatus	[+] Rohrschollen island - Restoration of the dynamics of Rhine alluvial habitats on Rohrschollen island	LIFE08 NAT/F/000471	2008	FR	Local authority	2080000
Triturus cristatus	[+] Lauter-Donon - Protection of the forests of Basse Lauter and Vosges moyennes	LIFE06 NAT/F/000142	2006	FR	National authority	845429
Triturus cristatus	[+] NELEAP - Protection of Emys orbicularis and amphibians in the north European lowlands	LIFE05 NAT/LT/000094	2005	LT	NGO-Foundation	2346185
Triturus cristatus	[+] ECONAT - Development of Pilot Ecological Network through Nature Frame Areas in Southern Lithuania	LIFE09 NAT/LT/000581	2009	LT	NGO-Foundation	766260

Triturus cristatus	[+] batraciens - Conservation of 4 endangered species of amphibians in Luxembourg	LIFE96 NAT/L/003195	1996	LU	Public enterprise	259641
Triturus cristatus	[+] NATURA 2000-LUXEMBOURG - Contribution from local authorities to the implementation of NATURA 2000	LIFE07 NAT/L/000542	2007	LU	Local authority	2987997
Triturus cristatus	[+] AMBITION - Amphibian Biotope Improvement in the Netherlands	LIFE04 NAT/NL/000201	2004	NL	National authority	1302539
Triturus cristatus	[+] ActiveKPN - Protection of natural resources of Kampinos Forest – Natura 2000 Site, through the renaturalisa ...	LIFE10 NAT/PL/000655	2010	PL	Park-Reserve authority	5568653
Triturus cristatus	[+] Netzwerk Donau - Danube Network	LIFE10 NAT/AT/000016	2010	AT	SME Small and medium sized enterprise	14509424
Triturus cristatus	[+] Tiroler Lech - Wild river landscape of the Tyrolean Lech	LIFE00 NAT/A/007053	2000	AT	Regional authority	7824717
TOTAL Triturus cristatus						85398732
Triturus carnifex	[+] Water SCIs - Improvement of the conservation status of SCIs in the high appenine area and in the plain around ...	LIFE07 NAT/IT/000433	2007	IT	Local authority	1148535
Triturus carnifex	[+] LIFE+ FAGGETE DEL TABURNO - Conservation of Taxus and Ilex beechwood in the pSIC "Taburno Massif"	LIFE09 NAT/IT/000198	2009	IT	Local authority	1311098
Triturus carnifex	[+] Fauna di Montenero - URGENT PILOT ACTIONS FOR AMPHIBIANS, REPTILES AND CHIROPTERA OF MONTENERO	LIFE08 NAT/IT/000326	2008	IT	Park-Reserve authority	1366694
Triturus carnifex	[+] LIFE FRIULI FENS - Conservation and restoration of calcareous fens in Friuli	LIFE06 NAT/IT/000060	2006	IT	Regional authority	2645000
Triturus carnifex	[+] Fortore 2005 - Urgent conservation actions for Fortore River pSCI	LIFE05 NAT/IT/000026	2005	IT	Local authority	1590000
Triturus carnifex	[+] ARUPA - URGENT PROTECTION ACTIONS FOR AMPHIBIANS AND REPTILES IN THE MATERA GRAVINA.	LIFE08 NAT/IT/000372	2008	IT	Local authority	1667000

Triturus carnifex	[+] DINAMO - Increasing endangered biodiversity in agricultural and semi-natural areas: a demonstrative mana ...	LIFE08 NAT/IT/000324	2008	IT	University	1692494
Triturus carnifex	[+] Groane - Proposed sites of conservation importance (SCIs - Bioitaly) environment restoration on the Groa ...	LIFE96 NAT/IT/003068	1996	IT	Park-Reserve authority	1175964
Triturus carnifex	[+] SiAurora - Aurora System - active presentation of Salamandra atra aurorae and other amphibians	LIFE04 /IT/000167	2004	IT	Local authority	841784
Triturus carnifex	[+] Cerknisko Jezero - Intermittent Cerknica Lake	LIFE06 NAT/SI/000069	2006	SI	Park-Reserve authority	1840584
Triturus carnifex	[+] Karst park - Conservation of endangered habitats / species in the future Karst Park	LIFE02 NAT/SLO/008587	2002	SI	University	476930
Triturus carnifex	[+] WETMAN - Conservation and management of freshwater wetlands in Slovenia	LIFE09 NAT/SI/000374	2009	SI	National authority	2144376
Triturus carnifex	[+] Murerleben - Mur experience - Alpine river management Upper Mur	LIFE08 NAT/A/000614	2008	AT	Regional authority	2784131
Triturus carnifex	[+] LIFE Obere Drau II - Life in Upper Drau River	LIFE06 NAT/A/000127	2006	AT	Regional authority	3768262
TOTAL Triturus carnifex						24452852
Triturus dobrogicus	[+] GREENDANUBE - Conservation and integrated management of Danube islands Romania	LIFE06 NAT/RO/000177	2006	RO	National authority	567953
Triturus dobrogicus	[+] Lower Prut Floodplain - Ecological restoration of the Lower Prut Floodplain Natural Park	LIFE05 NAT/RO/000155	2005	RO	Regional authority	824710
Triturus dobrogicus	[+] Netzwerk Donau - Danube Network	LIFE10 NAT/AT/000016	2010	AT	SME Small and medium sized enterprise	14509424
Triturus dobrogicus	[+] Untere March-Auen - Restoration of the Lower Morava floodplains	LIFE10 NAT/AT/000015	2010	AT	Public enterprise	3491774
TOTAL Triturus dobrogicus						19393861

Vipera ursinii	[+] Vipère d'Orsini - Conservation of French populations of Orsini's viper (<i>Vipera ursinii</i>)	LIFE06 NAT/F/000143	2006	FR	Regional authority	1492540
Vipera ursinii	[+] Vipera ursinii 31/01/2002 - "In situ" conservation of the Romanian Meadow Viper (<i>Vipera ursinii</i>)	LIFE99 NAT/RO/006404	1999	RO	Research institutions	255877
Vipera ursinii rakoniensis	[+] CONVIPURSRK - Conservation of Hungarian meadow viper (<i>Vipera ursinii rakosiensis</i>) in the Carpathian-basin	LIFE07 NAT/H/000322	2007	HU	NGO-Foundation	2260886
Vipera ursinii rakoniensis	[+] HUNVIPURS - Establishing the background of saving the Hungarian meadow viper (<i>Vipera ursinii rakosiensis</i>) f ...	LIFE04 NAT/HU/000116	2004	HU	NGO-Foundation	649000
Vipera ursinii rakoniensis	[+] Saving Vipera u. rakosiensis - Saving Vipera ursinii rakosiensis in Transylvania	LIFE05 NAT/RO/000158	2005	RO	Training centre	517723
TOTAL Vipera ursinii rakoniensis						1748417
Lacerta agilis	[+] KTKK HX - Dry, calcareous habitats in the cultural landscape of Hörter	LIFE10 NAT/DE/000007	2010	DE	Local authority	1099795
Lacerta agilis	[+] LIFE rund ums Heckengäu - Habitat improvement for endangered animals and plants in the NATURA 2000 areas of Stromberg, He ...	LIFE10 NAT/DE/000005	2010	DE	Local authority	1819460
Lacerta agilis	[+] ECONAT - Development of Pilot Ecological Network through Nature Frame Areas in Southern Lithuania	LIFE09 NAT/LT/000581	2009	LT	NGO-Foundation	76626
TOTAL Lacerta agilis						6423490

FRANCE / FRANCE

Convention de Berne - octobre 2011

*Point sur la situation de la Vipère d'Orsini *Vipera ursinii**

NOTE DESYNTHESE

La vipère d'Orsini a fait l'objet d'un **premier plan de restauration publié en mai 2005**. Sa durée était prévue sur 4 ans, pour se terminer en 2009. L'objectif général de ce plan consistait à arrêter le déclin de l'espèce et à assurer sa conservation sur le long terme. Pour conforter la démarche de conservation entreprise, un programme Life intitulé « *Conservation des populations françaises de vipères d'Orsini* » a été mis en œuvre à partir de 2006 pour élaborer et soutenir une stratégie de conservation sur le long terme. Ce programme était porté par l'agence régionale pour l'environnement de la région Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur, avec le partenariat du conservatoire des espaces naturels de cette région (ex- conservatoire et étude des écosystèmes de Provence), l'office national des forêts, l'école pratique des hautes études à Montpellier, l'office national de la chasse et de la faune sauvage et le syndicat mixte d'aménagement et d'équipement du mont Ventoux. Le budget du programme s'élevait à 1.492.540 €. La durée était de 57 mois, se terminant le 30 avril 2011.

Les principaux résultats obtenus sont les suivants :

- Distribution de l'espèce : 13 sites ont été étudiés, soit 8.152 ha. L'espèce est également présente sur 3 autres sites, non éligibles dans le cadre du programme Life.
- Diagnostics pastoraux : réalisés sur 6 sites, ils ont permis de démontrer la compatibilité de la gestion pastorale avec le maintien des habitats favorables à la vipère d'Orsini.
- Variabilité génétique : étudiée à partir d'échantillons (écailles) prélevées sur 615 individus. Cette variabilité est faible. Elle doit être comparée à celles d'autres populations européennes. Une différence entre les populations de plusieurs sites a été constatée. Il pourrait s'agir d'une réponse à une variation ancienne de facteurs écologiques locaux entre les sites étudiés.
- Coupes forestières et débroussaillage : réalisés afin de maintenir l'ouverture des milieux menacés par la dynamique forestière, ouvertures à pérenniser par le pastoralisme afin de créer des conditions favorables au maintien et à l'accroissement des populations de vipère d'Orsini. 550 ha ont été ainsi réhabilités, dépassant les objectifs proposés dans le programme Life (\pm 400 ha).
- Expérimentation de la gestion des milieux par le brûlage dirigé, destiné à remplacer l'écobuage traditionnellement pratiqué : plusieurs méthodes ont été expérimentées. Le brûlage hivernal sur sol humide (de novembre à février) en mosaïque est le plus adapté. Il n'impacte pas l'espèce en hibernation, favorise le maintien de végétation susceptible de servir d'abri aux vipères, et préserve les espèces proies (sauterelles et criquets).
- Suivi des habitats et de la recolonisation des sites par les vipères : la caractérisation des habitats a été réalisée sur 8 sites (par indicateurs de qualité de l'habitat et de la ressource alimentaire) et s'est révélée positive sur 7 sites. La recolonisation a été étudiée sur 3 sites (par pose d'émetteurs sur les vipères) et s'est révélée positive sur 1 site. La faible densité de vipères sur les 2 autres sites ne permet pas encore de dégager des conclusions probantes.
- Surveillance des sites et sensibilisation du public : réalisée sur 3 sites à forte fréquentation (Ventoux, montagne de Lure, préalpes de Grasse), les journées d'observation et d'enquête ont permis de détecter les comportements défavorables à l'espèce (circulation motorisée principalement) et d'informer le public. La formation des personnels concernés avait été réalisée au préalable.
- Communication et sensibilisation. C'était une partie importante du programme Life. Elle a concerné divers publics cibles : les acteurs locaux (lettres d'information, réunions de concertation, etc.), les gestionnaires d'espaces naturels (édition et diffusion d'un guide technique consacré à la

gestion et au suivi des populations) et le grand public (exposition itinérante, conférences auprès des scolaires, site internet...).

A l'issue du programme Life, la direction régionale de l'environnement, de l'aménagement et du logement de la région Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur a confié au conservatoire des espaces naturels de cette région la rédaction d'un second plan : le « **Plan national d'actions en faveur de la vipère d'Orsini 2012-2016** ». Ce document stratégique prévoit les actions à mettre en œuvre et les moyens à mobiliser pour assurer la poursuite des actions engagées, en valorisant l'expérience acquise pendant le programme Life. En particulier, le suivi des populations de vipères et de leurs habitats sera poursuivi : recherche de populations susceptibles d'occuper des sites favorables (Préalpes, Mercantour, Baronnies provençales...). Il s'agira notamment de rechercher des populations non encore observées et de tenter de mettre en évidence des éléments de connectivité entre elles. La poursuite de la restauration des habitats potentiellement favorables sera réalisée : débroussailllements et coupes forestières, brûlages dirigés, maintien ou retour du pastoralisme par des mesures agro-environnementales dans les sites Natura 2000. Les actions en direction du grand public seront renforcées : surveillance de sites sensibles, poursuite des actions de sensibilisation, etc... Cette stratégie est déclinée en 4 objectifs (valorisation de l'expérience acquise, connaissance des populations, protection et gestion des massifs concernés par la présence de l'espèce, information et sensibilisation du public) déclinés en 30 fiches d'actions. La rédaction du projet de ce plan national d'action est terminée. Il a été approuvé par le Conseil scientifique régional du patrimoine naturel de la région Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur le 30 juin 2011 et va être transmis à l'administration centrale pour validation nationale au terme d'une large consultation.

MALTA / MALTE

MALTA'S NATIONAL REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATION NO. 119 (2006) ON THE CONSERVATION OF CERTAIN ENDANGERED SPECIES OF AMPHIBIANS AND REPTILES IN EUROPE

None of the five species listed in this Recommendation naturally occur in Malta, although all are covered as species of community interest in need of strict protection by the “Flora, Fauna and Natural Habitats Regulations, 2006” (Legal Notice 311 of 2006, as amended).

To this end, the following presents an account of past, ongoing and planned measures by Malta to safeguard its native herpetofauna.

The herpetofauna of the Maltese Islands is represented by the following:

- a subspecies of painted frog – *Discoglossus pictus pictus* – a Siculo-Maltese endemic;
- the historically introduced – *Chamaeleo chamaeleon*;
- the native ocellated skink – *Chalcides ocellatus tiligugu*;
- two native species of gecko – *Hemidactylus turcicus* and *Tarentola mauritanica*;
- one species of lacertid lizard – *Podarcis filfolensis* – a Pelago-Maltese endemic, with four locally named races and another yet unnamed; and
- four species of snakes – *Hemorrhois algirus*, *Zamenis situla*, *Telescopus fallax fallax* and *Heirophis viridiflavus*.

The above-mentioned species are all afforded strict legal protection by the “Flora, Fauna and Natural Habitats Regulations, 2006” (Legal Notice 311 of 2006, as amended), which transpose the requirements of the Bern Convention and also extends protection to other endangered European species. The conservation status of these species has been assessed against criteria set by the EC Habitats Directive as part of Article 17 on reporting obligations. Critical habitats of these species are included in the national ecological network of protected areas. Control efforts to deal with invasive alien species that are of a threat to these species are also ongoing with attention being currently focused on addressing *Rattus* populations (coupled with for instance measures to regulate disposal of waste in key areas).

Material for awareness raising, such as posters, have also been published and widely distributed to promote the conservation of these species as part of celebrations of the International Year of Biodiversity in 2010 and now the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity. A draft Dossier on wild fauna in the Maltese islands was uploaded on MEPA's website for public consultation in October 2011 (available at: <http://www.mepa.org.mt/public-consultation>). This document addresses species of fauna that are, or are likely to be, threatened by deliberate and/or incidental capture and killing, as well as animal species whose exploitation should be managed. The Dossier ultimately responds to mandates of biodiversity related multilateral environmental agreements, including the Bern Convention, as well as related EU policy. It aims at assisting Malta in building a strict protection regime, by devising strategic recovery plans for each species or group of species addressed in the Dossier. The species mentioned above are also addressed. Hence the Dossier, which integrates a proposed strategy establishing conservation measures for herpetofauna of the Maltese Islands, will be a key policy tool for strengthening the implementation of Recommendation No. 119 (2006) on the Conservation of Certain Endangered Species of Amphibians and Reptiles in Europe at a national level.